

Top Secret

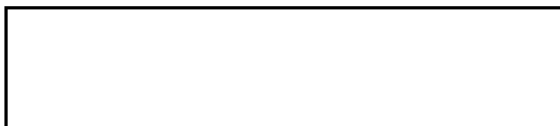


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SOUTH VIETNAM: There will probably be increased fighting in some parts of South Vietnam during the next few days as both sides try to improve their positions in anticipation of an announcement from Paris tightening the cease-fire agreement. If such fighting flares up, it probably would not last long and would be confined to a few strategic areas over which neither side has established clear lines of control.

South Vietnamese forces in the delta and western highlands already are at work trying to push Communist units out of key base areas. Another possible trouble spot could develop north of Saigon as a result of President Thieu's recent orders to clear Route 13 from Chon Thanh to An Loc.

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The Communists, apparently anticipating a step up of such operations, are reported to have recently ordered their units to resist all of Saigon's attempts

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In general, the Communists apparently intend to keep the lid on any widespread military action, at least until the results of the 6 June negotiations in Paris between the US and North Vietnamese are announced. COSVN reportedly expects that several points in the January cease-fire agreement will be clarified to the benefit of the Communists,

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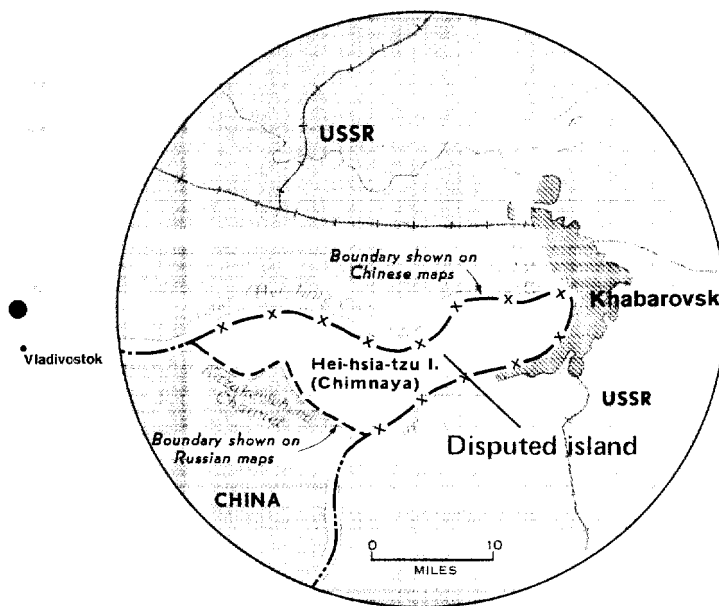
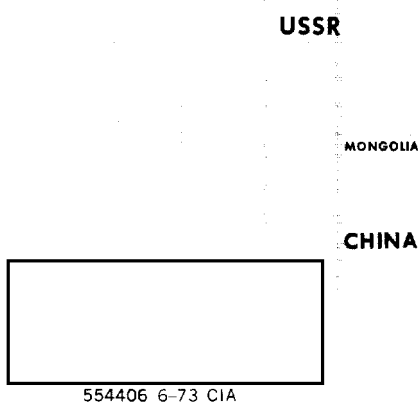
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Tension Increases Along Sino-Soviet Border



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USSR-CHINA: After a relatively quiet winter, friction along the Sino-Soviet border is again on the rise.

As usual when the ice goes out on the border rivers, the two sides have been harassing each other.

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although there have been no serious clashes, the arguments over the location of the main navigation channels and the ownership of river islands have reached their customary high pitch for this time of year. There have been several near collisions, followed by warnings and implied threats.

A major issue in dispute is the large island occupied by the Soviets at the confluence of the Amur and Ussuri near the important Soviet city of Khabarovsk. The Chinese have reasserted their claim to this island and the Soviets have warned the Chinese not to send cargo ships into "Soviet waters" near Khabarovsk without requesting permission.

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Conditions along other sections of the long frontier are relatively quiet, although there are hints of occasional trouble. The Soviets recently publicized a shooting incident along the southern border that involved several casualties. This is only the second time since the open fighting in 1969 that Moscow has officially noted such an incident. American correspondents who recently returned from a government-sponsored tour in the Tadzhik Republic had the impression after talking with local residents that minor incidents, occasionally involving gunfire, occurred about every seven to ten days.

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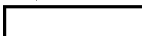
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Italy: The Christian Democratic Party's national congress opens today. Veteran party leader Amintore Fanfani reportedly has been trying to rally support for renewed collaboration with the Socialist Party to restore a center-left coalition. 

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Venezuela-Cuba: Venezuela now has acknowledged publicly that talks of a general nature concerning the sale of oil to Cuba are under way. 

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**These items are prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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